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FLOOR DEBATE

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pay them that money?

SENATOR FRIEND: In...I think some could argue, and I would probably be one of them, Senator Beutler, that the state has not...this is a voluntary program and the state has not insisted that these municipalities take part in it and these rural...these subdivisions take part in this. So I would answer the question by saying this. If a municipality were to go bankrupt...goodness knows we don't, obviously, want that to happen, but I suppose it could. And if it did, and they started tapping into these funds, those particular people that are tapping into those funds are going to be held accountable by those voters,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR FRIEND: ...and the firefighters, all the other voters who know that this is happening, going to be held accountable at a local level for taking advantage of a benefit that wasn't theirs to try to get out of that type of debt. So I mean, Senator, I think that there is some accountability, even though it might not be the state's. But the state is not telling those subdivisions to do this. It's just saying, this is a benefit to you, you can frame it and shape it how you'd like, so.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, yeah, I understand that. And back when the industrial banks failed, nobody told them to create the banks. It was discretionary. And nobody told the people to put their money in that bank. That was discretionary. But nonetheless, in the face of individual pain and loss...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Beutler. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion, Senator Bourne, followed by Senators Connealy, Beutler, and Friend.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Senator Friend, would you yield to another question or two?

SENATOR FRIEND: I will.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, And again, I'm not trying to